

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



March 23, 2025

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 2025

Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this Third Sunday in Lent, we reflect on the theme of repentance that is found in all three biblical texts. What is the nature of repentance, what moves us to repent, and what are the benefits for our lives and the world around us? As we explore these questions, we are moved to songs of praise, acts of confession, and a renewed commitment to service. Recognizing the grace God extends to us again and again, we cannot help but seek change and growth.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Warren Howell

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

The Prelude

"This Is My Father's World"
John Behnke, arr.

Evening Bells
Anna Anderson, dir.

The Call to Worship (responsive)

LEADER: Is anyone thirsty?

PEOPLE: **Come and drink!**

LEADER: Is anyone hungry?

PEOPLE: **God sets before us a feast of goodness!**

LEADER: Let us seek the Lord.

PEOPLE: **The Lord is near.**

The Invocation

*The Hymn of Praise, 52

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

ELLACOMBE

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

The Call to Confession “Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?” Grade-school Choir
Hal H. Hopson

Little lamb, who made thee?	Little lamb, I'll tell thee,
Dost thou know who made thee?	Little lamb, I'll tell thee:
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed	He is called by thy name,
By the stream and o'er the mead;	For he calls himself a Lamb.
Gave thee clothing of delight,	He is meek and he is mild;
Softest clothing, wooly bright,	He became a little child.
Gave thee such a tender voice,	I a child, and thou a lamb,
Making all the vales rejoice?	We are called by his name.
Little lamb, who made thee?	Little lamb, God bless thee!
Little lamb, who made thee?	Little lamb, God bless thee!

“The Lamb,” William Blake, 1789

The Prayer of Confession (responsive) Susan Kimball

LEADER: Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy on us.

LEADER: While you have given us life,

PEOPLE: we have wanted a comfortable life.

LEADER: While you provide for our needs of clothing, food, and water,

PEOPLE: we have often overlooked others who go without.

LEADER: Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us,

PEOPLE: You call us all your children, but we don't treat all like siblings.

LEADER: While you have been patient with us, we are impatient with others.

PEOPLE: Help us live lives worthy of the grace you've bestowed on us.

LEADER: We pray this in the name of the one who became a child called by your name.

PEOPLE: Amen.

The Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

LEADER: God's promise and surety of love is everlasting.

PEOPLE: Your steadfast love, O God, is better than life, and I will praise you.

The Act of Praise

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: 'In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -', 'joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your', and 'voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.' There are triplets in the vocal line of the second and third systems.

Words and Music: Jacques Berthier and Taizé Community, 1986

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 55:1-9

LaCount Anderson

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

The Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

LEADER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

The Anthem

“Let Us Not Become Weary”

Sanctuary Choir

Benjamin Kornelis

Caroline Childrey, solo

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Words: Galatians 6:9-10, Micah 6:8

The Sermon

Christopher Chapman

“Strategies of Repentance”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

DEPARTING TO SERVE

*The Benediction

*The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, “you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.”

*The Postlude

“Amazing Grace”

Maureen Howell

Mark Hayes

*The congregation may stand.

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The Deacon on Call is LaCount Anderson. A three-year member and a first-term deacon, LaCount serves on the Denominational Relations and the Fellowship Fund committees. He is a member of the Sanctuary Choir and has designed our Advent pulpit parament and artwork for several of our service bulletins. He and his wife Anna live in Rocky Mount and have an adult daughter, Leah Reed, and two grandsons, Jennings and Merritt.

Our acolyte and Bible bearer are Asher Helms and Carter Pegram.

Today's pulpit parament is sponsored in loving memory of Gertrude and William Lassiter by their sons, John and Charles Lassiter. A donation is made to the Day Mission Fund.

Join us March 28 and 29 for a Gaddy Series event when we will hear from historian/writer/speaker Kristin Kobes Du Mez, professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University and the author of *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*. Dr. Du Mez's book will be available for purchase and she will sign it for you while she's here. The book will cost \$17 and you may pay online, at the kiosk, or by check or cash. Friday includes dinner at 6pm and a presentation at 7pm. Saturday begins with a continental breakfast at 9am and a second presentation at 10am. Use the QR code to the right to register for the meal, and then pay via Paypal or Vanco (use first QR code on following page), pay at the kiosk, or submit a check with "Gaddy Meal" in the memo line. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information.



Church conference: Wednesday, March 26; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and meeting at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for Zoom link and documents.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for March 26 is: honey-baked ham with macaroni and cheese and cabbage; non-meat option: non-meat patty in gravy; kids: pizza rolls.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation information about scheduled activities will be noted on a recorded greeting obtained by calling the office at 919-832-4485. Information will also be supplied to WRAL-TV (1st Baptist, Salisbury St), WTVD-TV (First Baptist Church-Salisbury St) and posted on our home page and on social media (Facebook and Instagram).

Diaper changing stations are located in the men's and women's bathrooms on each floor of the Lewis building, and a nursing room is located in our preschool suite on the first floor.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship bags are located in the narthex and in the Gathering Room; preschoolers (birth – kindergarten) are also welcome to join the supervised play in the preschool suite on first floor.

To access the church WiFi, please use our guest network: *FBC-MG*; password: “biography.” You will need to sign in upon each use.



To facilitate your giving to FBC, use this QR code to link to the website for our main electronic giving and the page that lists all our e-giving options and instructions.

Visiting? We'd love to get to know you. Scan the QR code to the right to share your contact information.



Calendar Highlights • March 23–30

Sunday, March 23

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC/JBC joint worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
- 12:15 Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
- 5:00 Youth choir (choir room)
- 6:00 Youth supper (301)
- 6:30 Youth program (Blue Room)

Monday, March 24

- 10:00 Clothing ministry open
- 6:30 Music Made in Heaven rehearsal (302)

Tuesday, March 25

- 10:00 Staff meeting (conference room)
- 10:45 WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
- 1:00 WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
- 7:30 Softball practice (Millbrook Exchange Park)

Wednesday, March 26

- 5:15 Meal served (fellowship hall)
- 5:30 ITC Board meeting (110)
- 5:45 Children's music (307/311)
- 6:15 Church conference (fellowship hall)
- 6:30 Children's missions (preschool and children's suites)
Youth Bible study (Blue Room)
- 7:30 Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)

Thursday, March 27

- 7:00 Band of Brothers (Zoom)
- 10:30 Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)

Friday, March 28

- 6:00 Dinner for Gaddy lecture (fellowship hall)
- 7:00 Gaddy lecture presentation (sanctuary)

Saturday, March 29

- 9:00 Breakfast for Gaddy lecture (fellowship hall)
- 10:00 Gaddy lecture presentation (sanctuary)

Sunday, March 30

- 9:00 Nominating Committee (conference room)
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
JBC worship (227)
- 5:00 Handbell rehearsal (302)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RALEIGH
Affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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Warren Howell, Music

Wayne Hager, Church Administrator

Lynn Lingafelt, Children

Michael Hood, Youth/College

Jun Matsuzaki, Japanese Ministry Pastor

Maureen Howell, Organist/Music Assistant

Leah Anderson Reed, Community

A place of grace, a place of challenge, a place for you.